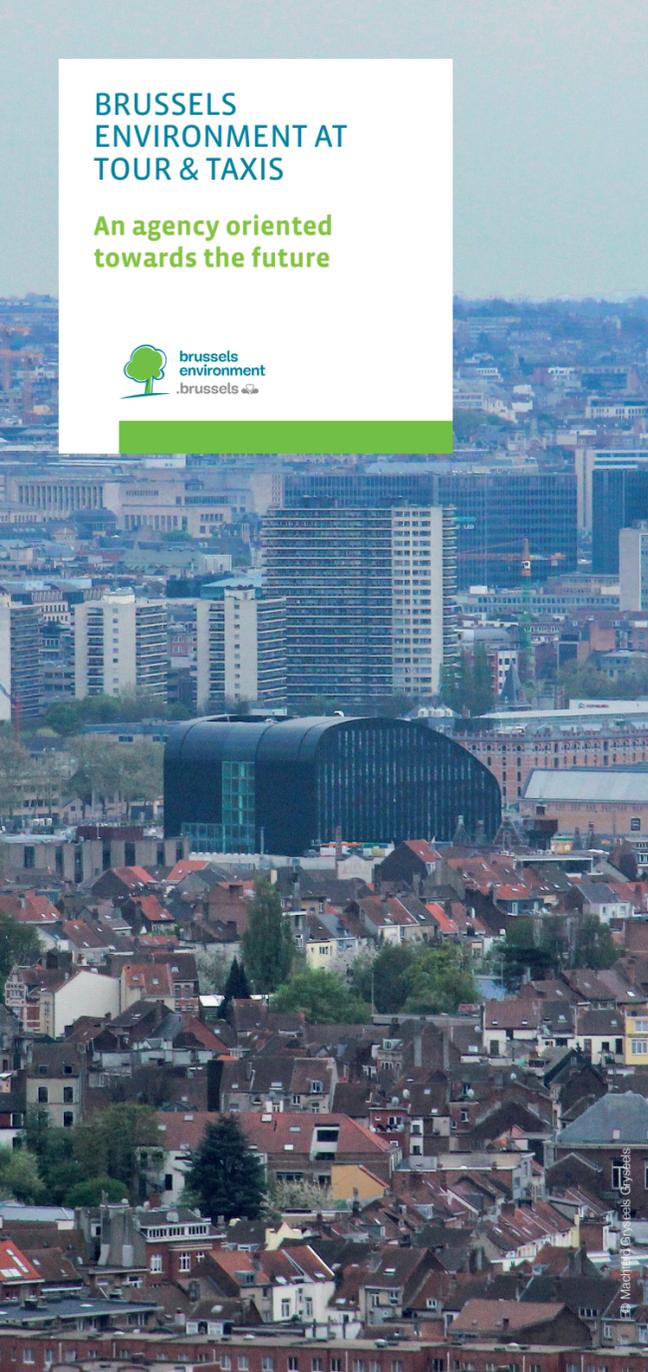


BRUSSELS ENVIRONMENT AT TOUR & TAXIS

An agency oriented towards the future



MORE THAN A RELOCATION

Brussels Environment has been contributing to the quality of life of people in Brussels for 25 years!

For the sake of consistency with its mission and values, the Environment and Energy Agency of the Brussels-Capital Region relocated in late 2014 to the Tour & Taxis site, occupying a highly energy-efficient building that is constructed according to environmental principles.

This relocation is best understood in the context of a general renewal:

- The optimisation of the agency's ecological footprint by means of **an exemplary building**.
- **The eco-organisation of the agency's work** to ensure greater efficiency and better service.
- The strengthening of ties with the agency's beneficiaries.
- Integration into **a fast-growing green district**.

This move is thus more than just a relocation: it represents a programme of modernisation on the part of the agency and a review of its way of working and of relating to the public, so that together we can meet the major environmental challenges that lie ahead more effectively. This is a real opportunity for Brussels Environment and its beneficiaries, but also for the district and the Region as a whole.



AN ECO-DESIGNED BUILDING

With a floorspace of 16,750 m², Brussels Environment's new headquarters is also one of the largest office buildings to meet the passive standard in Europe.

- Its passive design (including advanced insulation and good air sealing) means that up to **96% less gas** is consumed than in the old building.
- 700 m² of photovoltaic panels (integrated into the building for aesthetic reasons) generate nearly **88,000 kWh of green electricity** per year.
- The building's shell, made of metal and glass, allows plenty of **natural light** to enter. It is designed to enable automatic sun protection to be activated.
- Geothermal energy is used to **regulate the temperature** throughout the year. A heat pump uses the temperature of ground-water.
- The **dual-flow ventilation system associated with a heat exchanger** ensures contact between the cold air entering the building and the warm air leaving it. The incoming air is thus preheated by the outgoing air.
- The building is designed to treat grey water and **collect rainwater**, which will be used for non-drinking requirements.
- Most of the materials are locally sourced, and finishing materials carrying an **eco-label** have been preferred.
- The building has a 210-place **cycle park**, a changing room and showers.
- **A restaurant serving sustainable food**, made from local and seasonal produce, is open to employees and visitors.
- The furniture in the offices, the centre and the restaurant is **recycled and renovated furniture**.

AN ECO-DYNAMIC SPACE

Thanks to its ventilation and natural light intake, the building is designed to promote the comfort and well-being of its occupants.

Modern, flexible, adapted to new technologies... the work environment encourages interaction, but also eco-management practices such as electronic records management (with paper being phased out), home-working and optimisation of workspace occupancy to avoid heating or cleaning unoccupied offices.



A CONCERTED FOCUS ON ITS VARIOUS BENEFICIARIES

The new headquarters of Brussels Environment includes an environmental information and exhibition centre which is targeted directly at members of the public, professionals, voluntary organisations and schools in the Region.

As both a centre of attraction and an environmental showcase of an agency that is open and working to improve the quality of life of the people of Brussels, the information and exhibition centre is a place for debate, encounter and discussion; a place to explore and learn, but also a place for action.

The centre is organised around four sections:

- **Learning** - A reception and information area:

The public has access to the **specialist documentation centre** and can meet the general advisers of the Environmental Information Service.

- **Visiting** - Two exhibition areas:

→ **The permanent exhibition** will be installed in 2016 in an area of 700 m², and will feature an interactive and light-hearted learning centre that touches on the key urban and environmental issues of the 21st century.

→ **The temporary exhibitions** on themes addressed by Brussels Environment, often highly topical.

- **Meeting** - A conference centre:

A 400-seat auditorium and a number of flexible meeting rooms have the capacity for a range of internal and external **conferences**.

- **Eating** - A restaurant space:

Also open to the public, this offers exemplary and educational food that reflects the principles of **sustainable food** and fair trade.



IN A CHANGING DISTRICT

By choosing to settle in a densely populated and diverse district in the midst of transformation, and close to the historical heart of the city, the agency has demonstrated its wish to open up to its local environment and participate actively in the redeployment of this strategic area.

The Tour & Taxis district is being transformed according to sustainable development principles, with high-performance housing, a green business incubator, new public transport routes and other features.

Tour & Taxis Park, a new green space of regional significance, will ultimately extend from Boulevard Belgica to Place Bockstael, all the way to the Canal, passing through the entire Tour & Taxis site.

Partly managed by Brussels Environment, with the **involvement of local residents**, it is the outdoor extension of the information centre and a showcase for the agency's field activities.

The headquarters of Brussels Environment is part of an overall plan for the development of the area along the canal; set within the broader context of the district's evolution, it reflects your agency's daily work to make **Brussels a sustainable city**.



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